

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-10 DODE-00 NSC-07

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /057 W

----- 117342

R 041440Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8072

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 08291

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y PARA 3. LINE 2 AND 18

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO, PARM, FR

SUBJECT: EC NINE CONSULTATION ON DEFENSE MATTERS

REF: (A) PARIS 3044; (B) PARIS 36L4 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. GOF SEEMS TO HAVE MOVED TOWARD ACCEPTANCE  
OF DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN LIMITED DEFENSE/ARMS CONTROL  
SUBJECTS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION.

WE BELIEVE EC DISCUSSION OF THESE SUBJECTS POSES ONCE  
AGAIN QUESTION OF FUTURE SHAPE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE  
SOUGHT BY US, ROLE OF NATO AND EC IN THAT FUTURE, AND

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NATURE OF ORGANIC CONSULTATIVE LINK (IF ANY) BETWEEN US

AND EC NINE REGARDS  
US SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH US, MISTRAL (QUAI DIS-  
ARMAMENT OFFICER) DESCRIBED CURRENT FRENCH APPROACH TO  
EC NINE DISCUSSION OF ARMS CONTROL DEFENSE SUBJECTS. HE NOTED  
THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SLIGHT SHIFT IN THE FORMER  
FRENCH POLICY OF OPPOSING EC DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE  
ISSUES (AS FORECAST IN REF A). FRANCE IS NOW PREPARED TO  
DISCUSS THREE ASPECTS RELATED TO DEFENSE/ARMS CONTROL  
ISSUES: FIRST, THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATE  
FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE ISSUES; SECOND,  
ARMAMENT QUESTIONS DEALING MAINLY WITH THE ISSUES OF  
COOPERATIVE PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS  
SYSTEMS; THIRD, THE IMPACT OF MBFR ON FUTURE EUROPEAN  
UNION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO DEFENSE ARS CONTROL ASPECTS OF  
THAT UNION. MISTRAL ADDED THAT, WITH RESPECT TO THIS  
THIRD AREA, WHICH FRENCH VIEW AS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF  
THE THREE, FRENCH POLICY IS AIMED LARGELY AT PURSUADING  
THE FRG TO ACCEPT FRENCH VIEWS OF DANGERS INHERENT IN PHASE II  
OF MBFR (SEE REF A PARA 4 FOR EARLIER DETAILED QUAI  
COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT). ACCORDING TO MISTRAL, THE  
FRENCH ARE ALSO ANXIOUS TO PURSUE EXAMINATION OF THE  
EFFECT OF THE US/USSR AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF  
NUCLEAR WAR ON THE SECURITY OF EUROPE. MISTRAL SAID  
THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH TO  
PROVOKE OR TO INITIATE DISCUSSION IN EC FORUM OF SECRE-  
TARY SCHLESINGER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON US POLICY FOR  
NUCLEAR TARGETING.

3. COMMENT: IN OUR DISCUSSION, MISTRAL SEEMED TO  
EXUDE AN ENTHUSIASM FOR PURSUING FURTHER EXAMINATION  
WITHIN THE EC FRAMEWORK OF THE THREE ISSUES MENTIONED  
ABOVE. AS WE HAVE SAID EARLIER (REF B), WE BELIEVE THAT  
EC NINE DISCUSSION OF SUCH SUBJECTS RAISES FUNDAMENTAL  
QUESTIONS THAT THE US SHOULD ADDRESS NOW:

-- FIRST, SHOULD US SUPPORT (OR AT LEAST NOT  
OPPOSE) EC NINE DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE/ARMS CONTROL ISSUES  
IN FORUM THAT IS OUTSIDE OF NATO AND WHICH EXCLUDES US  
PARTICIPATION? THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION WILL REQUIRE  
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THAT WE DEFINE WITH GREATER PRECISION OUR OWN CONCLUSIONS  
REGARDING THE PROS AND CONS OF ALTERNATIVE ORGANIZATIONS  
FOR EUROPEAN DEFENSE INCLUDING THE ROLE OF "EUROPEAN  
IDENTITY" IN DEFINING EUROPE'S DEFENSE -- A TASK  
WHICH WE SUGGESTED IN PARIS 32491 (EXDIS) SHOULD BE  
UNDERTAKEN NOW.

-- SECOND, IF WE SHOULD NOT (OR CANNOT)  
PREVENT EC NINE DISCUSSIONS OF DEFENSE/ARMS

CONTROL ISSUES OUTSIDE OF NATO, SHOULD WE SEEK SOME  
FORM OF ORGANIC CONSULTATIVE LINK TO TIE US INTO THESE  
DISCUSSIONS? CERTAINLY WE WOULD HAVE A STRONG RIGHT TO  
BE REPRESENTED WHEN EC DISCUSSED DEFENSE ISSUES OF  
DIRECT RELEVANCE TO US SECURITY -- WHICH MEANS PRACTI-  
CALLY ALL IMPORTANT DEFENSE ISSUES. MOREOVER, WE EXPECT  
SUBSTANTIVE NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES LIKE  
US/SOVIET AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, AND

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LIMDIS

OF MBFR WOULD BE ENRICHED BY DIRECT US PARTICIPATION.  
EFFORT TO INSERT THE US INTO THE NINE'S DEFENSE DISCUS-  
SIONS, HOWEVER, COULD BE READ AS US ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
LEGITIMACY OF THIS EC POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND WOULD  
RAISE ISSUE CONCERNING THE ROLES OF NATO AND THE EC ON

DEFENSE MATTERS WHICH TOUCHES ON OUR FIRST POINT ABOVE.  
SEEN FROM PARIS, THIS ISSUE IS ALREADY POSING ITSELF,  
REGARDLESS OF DE ROSE'S DISCLAIMER (USNATO 1424, PARA  
48).

-- THIRD, AND MORE IMMEDIATE, WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN EC'S EMBRYONIC START TOWARD DEFENSE DISCUSSION  
AND OUR CONCEPT OF ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP, WHICH WE HAVE  
SOUGHT TO DEFINE THROUGH US/EC AND NATO DECLARATIONS  
AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH THE EUROPEANS?

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4. EACH OF THESE QUESTIONS IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO  
THE OTHERS. THEIR ANSWERS DEPEND, IN TURN, ON USG  
TREATMENT OF THE ISSUES POSED IN PARIS 32491. IN ANY  
EVENT, ROTH'S DETERMINATION TO PURSUE ARMS CONTROL DIS-  
CUSSIONS IN EC FRAMEWORK (BONN 41931), COUPLED WITH  
FRENCH READINESS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TARGETS OF OPPOR-  
TUNITY AS REFLECTED BY MISTRAL, UNDERLINE FACT THAT WE  
HAVE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF THIS SUBJECT. MOREOVER, NEW  
SITUATION CREATED BY PASSING OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU IS  
UNLIKELY TO RELIEVE US OF NEED TO ADDRESS SUBJECT.  
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## Message Attributes

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